

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-45 were originally filed in this patent application. In the first office action, claims 12, 14-16 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,418,451 to Maimone in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,901 to Chadhuri. Claims 1-11 and 20-45 were allowed. Claims 13 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. The Examiner maintained the rejection in the second office action. In response to the second office action, claim 12 was amended and claim 13 was cancelled. In the third office action, claims 1-10, 12-27 and 29-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,745,176 to Probert in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,226,161 to Khoyi. Claims 11, and 43-45 were allowed and claim 28 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. A request for reconsideration was filed 10/05/05. In a fourth office action, claims 12, and 14-28 were rejected under §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter, claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 14-16, 18-19 and 29-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,745,176 to Probert in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,226,161 to Khoyi. Claims 10-11, and 43-45 were allowed and claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. In this response, claims 5, 17, 19, 20 and 24 have been amended and claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 14-16, 18 and 29-39 have been cancelled. Claims 5, 10-11, 17, 19-28 and 40-45 are currently pending.

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 12 and 14-28 under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 14-28 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. To overcome this rejection, claims 17, 19-20 and 24 have been amended, and claims 12, 14-16, and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 17 was amended to include the limitations of former claims 16 and 12. Claims 19 was amended to depend on claim 17. Further, claims 17, 20 and 24 were amended to recite a computer-implemented method. Claims 19, 21-23, and 25-28 depend on claims 17, 20 and 24 respectively and are therefore allowable as depending on an allowable independent claim. Applicant believes these claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 14-16, 18-19, and 29-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 14-16, 18-19 and 29-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,745,176 to Probert in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,226,161 to Khoyi. To overcome this rejection and place this application in condition for allowance, Applicant has cancelled all these claims except those discussed above. The cancelled claims will be pursued in a continuation application.

Allowance of claims 10-11 and 40-45

The Examiner allowed claims 10-11 and 40-45. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

Objection to claim 5

The examiner objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Claim 5 has been amended herein to place it in proper independent form. As a result, claim 5 is allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that all of applicants' claims as amended are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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